



ave an opinion? Blog it! That's the new age cyber mantra. Blogs have become a way of life. The Internet is full of blogs on various subjects—sports, beauty, fashion or yoga. Blogs act as a personal, online space for users (a.k.a. bloggers) to publish their thoughts, photos, and to receive feedback and share it with the world.

In this article, I will show you how to set up your own weblog using the

open source software, NucleusCMS. This is a highly extendable, free and open source Content Management System (CMS) available at http:// nucleuscms.org. It has been released under the GNU GPL.

NucleusCMS allows you to maintain one or more weblogs. You can have a look at the complete feature set at http://nucleuscms.org/ features.php. There is also a demo site that demonstrates the power of NucleusCMS at http://



demo.nucleuscms.org/.

But let us first understand what blogs are. A blog (short for weblog, also known as an online journal) is a frequent and chronological publication of comments and thoughts on the Web. Blogs can be used for various purposes. Blog users (bloggers) can be broadly categorised into four main types:

- · Personal bloggers
- · Business bloggers
- Organisational bloggers
- Professional bloggers

Personal bloggers often create blogs that contain online diary or journal type entries. Some focus on specific themes or topics that they feel passionately about, like sports, technology, education, news, politics, etc.



Figure 3: MySQL configuration



Figure 4: Administrator User configuration



Figure 5: Blog Name configuration

Business bloggers create blogs to promote their products or services.

Organisational bloggers use blogs as a way to communicate within the organisation and/or externally, with clients, the general public, etc.

Professional bloggers are those who are actually hired or paid to blog.

The popularity of blogs has grown so dramatically that Google has even hosted an exclusive site for blog searches. You can access Google's blog search at http://blogsearch.google.com/

Setting up NucleusCMS

Setting up Nucleus is pretty straightforward. All you need is a Linux server running the latest version of Apache, PHP and the MySQL database. Let's run through the setting up process.

Step 1: Download the latest NucleusCMS version from http:// nucleuscms.org/download.php



Figure 1: NucleusCMS



Figure 2: Installing NucleusCMS



Step 2: Copy the downloaded zip file to your Apache html directory and extract the zip file. For example, on my system (running Fedora Core 5), the Apache HTML directory is under / var/www/

Step 3: Change the permission of config.php to 666 using the chmod command.

Step 4: Run install.php from your browser, as shown in Figure 2.

Step 5: Configure MySQL log-in data, as shown in Figure 3.

Step 6: Configure Administrator user, as shown in Figure 4.

Step 7: Configure your blog name, as shown in Figure 5.

Step 8: Click the submit button to complete the installation. If everything goes well, you should see a screen similar to the one shown in Figure 6.

Step 9: For security reasons, change the permission of config.php to 444, using the chmod command, and delete install.sql and install.php file

Step 10: Click on the 'Login to Admin area...' link to get the Admin login screen, as shown in Figure 7.

Step 11: All configurations related to your blog site, like user management, category management, etc, can be configured from the Admin screen, as shown in Figure 8.

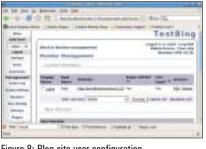


Figure 8: Blog site user configuration

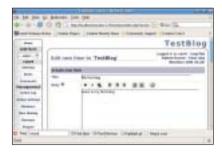


Figure 9: Posting a new blog



Figure 10: Your first blog!

At this point, the NucleusCMS setup is complete. Now, let us have a look at the various operations that you can carry out with your blog.



Posting a new entry

To post a new blog entry, click on the Add Item link in the Admin screen. You will get a screen similar to the one shown in Figure 9 to post your blog.

Viewing your blog site

To view the blog site, click on the link Your Site in the Admin screen. You should get a screen similar to the one shown in Figure 10.

Your blog is ready to rock. Go on...express yourself to the world.



Happy blogging!!!



Figure 6: Installation status

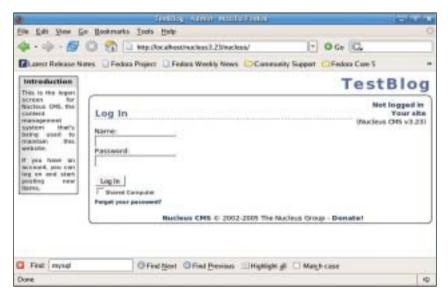


Figure 7: Admin screen

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